

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2815
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5928

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, BR
SUBJ: JOINT GROUPS ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL (S AND T)
COOPERATION AND ON ENERGY TECHNOLOGY (ET) COOPERATION--
NEXT MEETINGS

REF: STATE 152128

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY'S PRESENT POSITION, IN CONSULTATION
WITH GOB, IS:

(A) NEXT MEETING OF S AND T JOINT GROUP CANNOT BE CONSIDERED
WITHOUT CONSIDERING QUESTION OF ET JOINT GROUP
MEETING--THESE SHOULD BE HELD SEQUENTIALLY;

(B) THERE MAY BE MORE ADVANTAGES THAN DISADVANTAGES IN
DEFERRING BOTH JOINT GROUP MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER
VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE TO BRAZIL AND CLARIFICATION
OF OTHER ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY PRELIMINARY VIEW ON JOINT GROUPS POSSIBLE
MEETING WERE GIVEN IN TWO MEMOS OF JUNE 18 (SCICOUN
TO AMBASSADOR) SENT DIRECTLY LATER TO BRAZIL DESK (BOTH),
OES/APT/BMP (S AND T), AND OES/NET (ET), AND EMBASSY NOW HAS
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AVAILABLE TO IT OES ASSESSMENT OF 6/21/77 OF S AND T AREA.
THESE REVIEWS ARE IN BASIC AGREEMENT ON RELATIVE LACK
OF ACTION AND PROGRESS IN INCREASING TECHNICAL COOPER-
ATION DURING LAST 10 MONTHS. IN VIEW OF THIS, EMBASSY
FEELS THAT ADEQUATE PREPARATION COULD BE MADE ON US
SIDE BY STATE/EMBASSY/NSF /ERDA AND ON GOB SIDE BY FONMIN/
CNPQ/MINES AND ENERGY FOR MEETING OF PRINCIPALS IN OCTOBER

WITHOUT NECESSITY FOR INTERVENING MEETINGS OF JOINT GROUPS. MORE PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS OF THESE JOINT GROUPS MIGHT FOLLOW MEETING OF PRINCIPALS AND DISCUSSION OF SOME OF ISSUES WHICH IMPINGE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR ON GOB SIDE FOR DELAYING MEETINGS IS THAT HEADS (AND POSSIBLY ASSISTANTS) OF CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION DEPT. AND OF ECONOMIC DEPT. WHO ARE GOB CHAIRMEN OF S AND T AND ET JOINT GROUPS, RESPECTIVELY, ARE BEING CHANGED IN JULY/AUGUST PERIOD. FURTHERMORE GOB PROJECT IPIRANGA (ENERGY TECHNOLOGY ALTERNATIVES AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE) IS STILL IN FORMATIVE PROCESS WITH CNPQ (ACCORDING TO DION) ASSUMING MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL ROLE.

3. BASED ON INCONCLUSIVE CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS PARTS AND LEVELS OF GOB, EMBASSY WOULD SUMMARIZE PRESENT ATTITUDES AS FOLLOWS:

(A) GOB REMAINS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL OF USG INTEREST IN INCREASING TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND OF REAL USG AGENCY (OUTSIDE OF STATE) INTENT AND ABILITY TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE COOPERATION ON TERMS ACCEPTABLE TO BRAZIL (OTHER THAN REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL SERVICES), AFTER TOTAL USAID/BRAZIL PHASE-OUT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPATION IN CENTRALLY-FUNDED TECHNICAL AID PROJECTS IN S AND T AREA (IN ENERGY AREA BRAZIL IS IN LIMBO
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BEING NEITHER AN OECD-IEA MEMBER NOR ELIGIBLE FOR ERDA LDC PROGRAMS FUNDED BY AID.)

(B) GOB VIEWS NON-NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AS ONLY SPECIAL CASE OF S AND T, WITH MANY OF SAME AGENCIES INVOLVED ON BRAZILIAN SIDE AND WITH INSTRUMENTS OF COOPERATION (MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING) UNDER CURRENT BILATERAL S AND T AGREEMENT. GOB THEREFORE FEELS STRONGLY S AND T AND ET JOINT GROUPS SHOULD MEET AT SAME PLACE IN SEQUENCE AND LOOKS TO EVENTUAL MERGING OF TWO GROUPS INTO ONE.

(C) ON ONE HAND, GOB REJECTS CATEGORICALLY ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN INCREASED TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH US AND GOB CONCESSIONS ON NUCLEAR POLICY OR IMPLEMENTATION OF GOB/FRG NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, CLIMATE CREATED BY NUCLEAR POLICY DIFFERENCES AND US PRESSURES ON NUCLEAR AGREEMENT HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED GENERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION. FURTHERMORE, SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF "UNCOOPERATION" IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY APART FROM SENSITIVE PROLIFERATION ISSUES IN GOB/FRG NUCLEAR AGREEMENT--E.G., LACK OF RESPONSE TO CNEN PRESIDENT CARVALHO'S LETTER OF DECEMBER, 1976, TO THEN ERDA ADMINISTRATOR SEAMANS PRO-

POSING JOINT ACTIONS; PROBLEM OF FUEL ELEMENTS FOR IEA
RESEARCH REACTOR; CNEN'S UNANSWERED ATTEMPTS TO SET UP
ENERGY DATA BASE EXCHANGE; ETC.--ARE KNOWN WIDELY AND HAVE
GENERAL EFFECT ON GOB. ALL SECTORS OF GOB RELEVANT TO
SUBJECT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION SHARE CONVICTION THAT
NUCLEAR POWER IS HIGHEST PRIORITY ENERGY ALTERNATIVE TO
IMPORTED PETROLEUM (OUTSIDE OF CONTINUED HYDROELECTRIC
EXPLOITATION) AND THAT NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION IS
CRITICAL ISSUE. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT USG
HANDLING OF ANGRA I FUEL ISSUE AND ENRICHING/REPROCESSING
TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS AND THEIR OUTCOME WILL HAVE PRE-
DOMINANT EFFECT ON INCREASING OR SUSTAINING TECHNICAL
COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS.

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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